

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) A method for the catalytic reduction of NO_x in an NO_x containing gas by contacting said NO_x containing gas with methane in the presence of a catalyst comprising a zeolite loaded with palladium and a metal selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide and a combination thereof, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms.

23. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof and optionally other metals after having been loaded with palladium by ion exchange.

24. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite comprises a zeolite of the class of FAU, MOR, BEA, EMT, CON, BOG or ITQ-7.

25. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite is loaded with 0.02 to 2% by weight of palladium.

26. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof by ion exchange or incipient wetness techniques.

27. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

28. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 26, wherein the zeolite comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

29. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 22, wherein the zeolite is further loaded with one or more metals from groups IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Vb, VIb, VIIb,¹ and VIII of the periodic system.

30. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 22, wherein the gas comprises oxygen, water or a combination thereof.

31. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 22, wherein the gas comprises carbon monoxide.

32. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 22, wherein the reaction temperature is between 300°C and 600°C.

33. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 22, wherein the NO_x/methane ratio is between 0.02 and 2.

34. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 22, wherein an additional catalyst is used for the removal of N₂O.

35. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 34, wherein the additional catalyst for the removal of N₂O is an iron-containing zeolite, a promoted iron-containing zeolite or a combination thereof.

36. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 22, wherein an additional catalyst is used for the removal of methane.

37. (previously presented) A method for the catalytic reduction of NO_x in an NO_x containing gas by contacting said NO_x

containing gas with methane in the presence of a catalyst comprising a zeolite loaded with palladium and a metal selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide and a combination thereof, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof by physically mixing the zeolite with salts or oxides of said metals.

38. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 37, wherein the zeolite is loaded with 0.01 to 50% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

39. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 37, wherein the zeolite is further loaded with one or more metals from groups IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Vb, VIb, VIIb, and VIII of the periodic system.

40. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 37, wherein the gas comprises oxygen, water or a combination thereof.

41. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 37, wherein the gas comprises carbon monoxide.

42. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 37, wherein the reaction temperature is between 300°C and 600°C.

43. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 37, wherein the NO_x/methane ratio is between 0.02 and 2.

44. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 37, wherein an additional catalyst is used for the removal of N₂O.

45. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 44, wherein the additional catalyst for the removal of N₂O is an iron-containing zeolite, a promoted iron-containing zeolite or a combination thereof.

46. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 37, wherein an additional catalyst is used for the removal of methane.

47. (previously presented) A catalyst comprising a zeolite loaded with palladium and a metal selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide and a combination thereof, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms,

wherein the palladium in the zeolite is wholly or partially coordinated as ion by the zeolite.

48. (currently amended) ~~Catalyst~~ The catalyst according to Claim 47, ~~characterized by~~ having an infra-red sensitive zeolite lattice vibration visible at about 950 cm^{-1} .

49. (currently amended) ~~Catalyst~~ The catalyst according to Claim 47, wherein the zeolite comprises a zeolite of the class of FAU, MOR, BEA, EMT, CON, BOG or ITQ-7.

50. (currently amended) ~~Catalyst~~ The catalyst according to Claim 47, wherein the zeolite is loaded with 0.02 to 2% by weight of palladium.

51. (currently amended) ~~Catalyst~~ The catalyst according to Claim 47, wherein the zeolite comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

52. (currently amended) ~~Catalyst~~ The catalyst according to Claim 47, wherein the zeolite is further loaded with one or more metals from groups IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Vb, VIb, VIIb, and VIII of the periodic system.

53. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for the preparation of a zeolite loaded with palladium and a metal selected from the group consisting of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide and a combination thereof, said zeolite based on rings having 12 oxygen atoms, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof and optionally other metals after having been loaded with palladium by ion exchange.

54. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 53, wherein the zeolite comprises a zeolite of the class of FAU, MOR, BEA, EMT, CON, BOG or ITQ-7.

55. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 53, wherein the zeolite is loaded with 0.02 to 2% by weight of palladium.

56. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 53, wherein the zeolite is loaded with scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof by ion exchange or incipient wetness techniques.

57. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 53, wherein the zeolite comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

58. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 56, wherein the zeolite comprises 0.01 to 20% by weight of scandium, yttrium, a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

59. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 53, wherein the zeolite, after having been loaded with palladium by ion exchange, the zeolite is loaded with one or more metals from groups IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Vb, VIb, VIIb, and VIII of the periodic system, before, at the same time or after the introduction of scandium, yttrium or a lanthanide or a combination thereof.

60. (new) The catalyst according to claim 22, wherein the metal is yttrium.

61. (new) The catalyst according to claim 37, wherein the metal is yttrium.

62. (new) The catalyst according to claim 47, wherein the metal is yttrium.

63. (new) The catalyst according to claim 53, wherein the metal is yttrium.